

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 29: were cancelled on January 19, 2005.

30. (Original) A nozzle assembly for applying a liquid to a substrate, wherein the nozzle assembly comprises a nozzle body incorporating a plurality of nozzles located substantially in a line and a substantially vertically extending guide plate having a flat surface and a straight lower edge wherein the nozzles are directed towards the flat surface of the guide plate above the lower edge so that a liquid film forms on the guide plate and flows off over the lower edge, wherein a downwardly widening gap is formed between the nozzle body and the guide plate, said widening gap being formed by a flat surface of the nozzle body and the flat surface of the guide plate which are arranged at an acute angle (α) of between 0.5 and 4° relative to one another, and wherein the planes of the flat surfaces cross above the nozzles assembly in the area of the nozzle body.

31. (Previously Presented) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the acute angle (α) is adjustable.

32. (Currently Amended) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the acute angle (α) lies between 0.5 and 4°, ~~preferably between 1° and 3°~~, and more preferably between 1.5° and 2.5°.

33. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the flat surface of the guide plate extends downwardly over the entire flat surface of the nozzle body.

34. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the guide plate is attached directly to the nozzle body, or wherein the guide plate is attached to the nozzle

body above the nozzles.

35. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a seal is located above the nozzles between the nozzle body and the guide plate.

36. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 35, wherein a recess is provided in the nozzle body for accommodating the seal.

37. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the seal has a round cross section.

38. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the nozzles are formed by straight passages in the nozzle body and whereby, in terms of height, an inlet end of the passage lies below an outlet end.

39. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 36, wherein the inlet ends of the nozzles flow into a common distributor line which has a substantially larger cross section than the respective nozzles.

40 (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the inlet ends of the nozzles lie at or in the proximity of a highest point of the distributor line.

41 (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claims 39, wherein a supply line is located below the distributor line and is connected by a plurality of feeder lines to the distributor line.

42 (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 41 wherein the feeder lines are evenly spaced over the entire length of the distributor line.

43 (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein at least one surface of the guide plate directed toward the nozzles consists of a hydrophilic layer.

44. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism is provided for producing a relative movement between the substrate (2) and the nozzle assembly.

45. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the mechanism comprises a unit for moving the nozzle assembly substantially parallel to the surface of the substrate, or a linear-movement unit for moving the substrate and/or the nozzle assembly.

46. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 45, wherein the nozzle body and the guide plate are attached to a pivotal arm.

47. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the guide plate is wider than the substrate.

48. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the outermost nozzles along the line are spaced by a distance which is greater than the width of the substrate.

49. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism is provided for adjusting the spacing between the lower edge of the guide plate and the substrate.

50. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the lower edge of the guide plate is a sharp edge.

51. (Currently Amended) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism is provided for opening and closing pre-determined nozzles, ~~and in particular, the outermost nozzles.~~

52. (Original) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 30, wherein an angle within the range of 90° to 94°, and preferably between 90.5° and 93° is formed between the nozzles and the guide plate and more preferably between 90.5 and 92.

53. (New) A nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 51, wherein said mechanism is provided for opening and closing outermost ones of the nozzles.